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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 69 (a)
Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Malta, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

World Down Syndrome Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] according to which persons with disabilities should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the person's active participation in the community and the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other persons, and by which States parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures to raise awareness throughout society regarding persons with disabilities,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

Aware that Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition, exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics or health,

[1] See resolution 60/1.
[2] See resolution 55/2.
[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

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Recalling that adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual,

Recognizing the inherent dignity, worth and valuable contributions of persons with intellectual disabilities as promoters of the well-being and diversity of their communities, and the importance of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices,

1. *Decides* to designate 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2012;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome;

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with Down syndrome;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.